Statement

End retail prices fixed at present by the State Governments for rice distributed under the scheme for supply of foodgrains at specially subsidised prices in ITDP areas and the Tribal majority States

(Rupees per quintal)

State	Common Rice	Fine Rice	Superfine Rice
1. Andhra Pradesh	200	200	200
2. West Bengal	223	289	310
3. Gujarat	220	280	300
4. Orissa	200	265	280
5. Arunachal Pradesh	219	279	300
6. Maharashtra	219	279	300
7. Rajasthan	219	279	300
8. Uttar Pradesh	219	279	300
9. Kerala	219	279	300
10. Himachal Pradesh	219	279	300
11. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	219	279	300
12. Daman	219	..	..

Increase in the prices of pulses

1346. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses have risen sharply during the past few weeks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control the prices and to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There has been only some increase in the prices of pulses since the beginning of the current financial year (1989-90). During the current financial year (till 8.7.89), the wholesale price index of pulses has increased by 9.4% as against 16% increase registered in the corresponding period in 1988-89. In the past four weeks (till 8.7.89), the wholesale price index (WPI) of pulses declined by 0.1%; during this period the WPI of gram and *arhar* has declined by 1.0 per cent each *masoor* by 0.9 per cent and *urd* by 1.9 per cent while *moong* has registered an increase of 4.7 per cent.

(b) The Government has taken a number of measures to contain the rise in the prices of pulses and improve their availability. The main thrust of the Government policy has been to increase the production and availability of pulses. The major elements of the strategy are as follows:—

1. To increase the production of pulses. To meet the demand and dietary needs of the population, a National Pulses Development Project has been launched during the 7th Five Year Plan as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A Central Sector Scheme has also been instituted for giving a thrust for growing Rabi/summer pulses.

2. Government have nominated National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) as a Central agency for price support operations in respect of pulses.

3. To augment the domestics supply, the import of pulses has been allowed under Open General Licence (OGL). NAFED has been nominated as the registering agency for import contracts for pulses. The exports of pulses have not been permitted.

4. In order to check the hoarding of pulses by the traders, stock limits of pulses for wholesalers and retailers in different cities have been fixed under the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977. State Governments have been advised to strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations against the blackmarketeers, hoarders and other anti-social elements.

Action against the officers of NCCF involved in embezzlement and fraud cases

1347. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1281 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the NCCF have now examined the authenticity of the certificate pertaining to the year 1981: and

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof and the details of action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The NCCF has reported that the process of verification about the authenticity of the receipts pertaining to the Rice deal of 1981 is yet to be completed, because HAFED who claim to have receipt given to them by Regional Manager (West) (since dismissed on some other charge) have not produced the original as yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Circular railway in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

1348. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RITES has conducted a survey for a circular railway in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the survey, length of the track, and cost of the project;

(c) whether the State Government has suggested formation of a consortium to undertake the construction work; and

(d) whether the Railways have agreed to be a part of the consortium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Hyderabad Area Transportation Study (HATS) earlier made two alternative proposals. This was considered by the Railways, who felt that inner circular railway would not be feasible. In order to validate the HATS' recommendations to determine a System of Mass Transit, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed RITES in March 1988 to prepare a techno-economic feasibility report for a Mass Transit Rail System.

(b) RITES have recommended provision of Light Rail Transit System in three phases:—

Phase-I: Balanagar to Khairatabad (9.549 kms)— cost Rs. 111.41 crores. (Approx.)